

Kenneth C. Griffin

Kenneth Cordele "Ken" Griffin (born October 15, 1968) is a self-made billionaire, American investor and economist. Griffin attended Harvard University, where he launched his first fund from his dormitory room at the age of 19. He is the founder, chief executive officer, and 85% owner of Citadel LLC and Citadel Securities.^[3] The two businesses provide Trading services to Asset managers, banks, broker-dealers and hedge fund, with offices across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. Griffin, is a notable philanthropist, with a deep history of supporting world-class institutions in the areas of Education, arts and culture and Economics.

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Early life and education

Ken Griffin



In 2015, Harvard University renamed its Financial Aid Office in honor of Ken Griffin.

Born	<div>Kenneth Cordele Griffin</div> <div>October 15, 1968</div> <div><u>Daytona Beach, Florida, U.S.</u></div>
Education	<u>Harvard University</u> (B.A.)
Occupation	Investor, <u>economist</u>
Years active	1990–present
Known for	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Founder and 85% owner of Citadel and Citadel Securities■ The creation of Citadel Technologies</div>
Net worth	<div>▲ US\$22.4 billion^[1]</div>
Title	Citadel CEO
Political party	<u>Independent</u> ^[2]
Spouse(s)	Divorced
Children	3
Awards	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Alpha's Hedge Fund Hall of Fame</div>

Mr. Griffin was born in 1968 in Daytona Beach, Florida, the son of a building supplies executive. Griffin's father was a project manager for General Electric.^[4] Griffin's grandmother, Genevieve Huebsch Gratz, inherited an oil business, three farms, and a seed business.

- Hedge Fund Lifetime Achievement Award
- Navy SEAL Patriot Award

Mr. Griffin grew up in Boca Raton, Florida, with some time in Texas, and Wisconsin.^[5] He went to middle school in Boca Raton^[4] followed by Boca Raton Community High School, where he was the president of the math club.^{[5][6]} In high school, Griffin ran a discount mail-order education software firm out of his bedroom called EDCOM.^[6] In a 1986 article in a local newspaper, Griffin stated that he thinks he will become a businessman or lawyer and that he believed the job market for computer programmers will significantly decrease over the coming decade.^[6]

Griffin started at Harvard College in the fall of 1986.^[5] That year, one of his first investments was to buy put options on Home Shopping Network, making a \$5,000 profit.^[7] He also invested in convertible arbitrage opportunities in convertible bonds.^[5] Despite a ban on running businesses from campus, Griffin convinced school administrators to allow him to install a satellite dish on the roof of the Cabot House dormitory to receive stock quotes.^{[7][5]} He also asked the manager of convertible bonds at Merrill Lynch in Boston, to open a brokerage account for him with \$100,000 that Griffin had gotten from his grandmother, his dentist, and others.^{[4][5]} His first fund launched in 1987 with \$265,000, days after his 19th birthday.^[5] The fund launched in time to profit from short positions on Black Monday (1987).^[5] Griffin graduated in 1989 with a degree in Economics.^[8]

Career

After graduating in 1989, Griffin moved to Chicago to work with Frank Meyer, founder of Glenwood Capital Investments.^{[9][10]} Meyer allotted \$1 million of Glenwood capital for Griffin to trade^[10] and Griffin made 70% in a year.^[5]

A year later, in 1990, Griffin founded Citadel, with assets under management of \$4.6 million, aided by contributions from Meyer.^[10] His funds made 43% in 1991 and 40% in 1992.^[7]

Wealth

In 2003, aged 34, Griffin was the youngest self-made individual on the Forbes 400 with an estimated net worth of \$650 million.^[11]

In 2006, Citadel acquired the positions of Amaranth Advisors at a steep discount.^[5]

Mr. Griffin is one of the richest person in America and frequently one of the highest earning hedge fund managers, earning in excess of \$1 billion per year.^{[12] [13] [12][14]} From Citadel, Griffin earned \$900 million in 2009,^[15] \$1.4 billion in 2014^[16] \$600 million in 2016,^[17] \$1.4 billion in 2017,^{[18][19]} \$870 million in 2018,^[20] \$1.5 billion in 2019,^[21] and \$1.8 billion in 2020.^[22]

In November 2020, according to Bloomberg News Griffin's net worth surpassed \$20 billion due to an increase the value of Citadel.^[23] Citadel Securities, a market maker, increased its profit to \$2.36 billion during the first half of 2020 compared to \$982 million for the same period in 2019 due to increased volatility, volume and retail trader engagement.^{[24][25]}

Citadel

Citadel LLC manages the capital of prominent investors from around the world including retirement programs, endowment programs and foundations and sovereign wealth funds. Citadel is widely known as a worldwide conglomerate with dozens of companies, billions in equities. Citadel has more than 3,000 employees, with operational headquarters in Manhattan, corporate headquarters in Chicago, London, Hong Kong, Canada, Shanghai, Singapore and Sydney, and offices throughout North America, Asia, and Europe.^{[26][27]} The company categorizes its areas of operations into distinct segments and groups their subsidiaries into three companies: Citadel the asset manager, Citadel Securities the market maker, and Citadel Technology.

Citadel Securities

Citadel Securities is a leading global market maker, delivering a broad array of fixed income and equity products to banks, broker-dealers, government agencies, corporations, insurers, and sovereign wealth funds. In 2016, Citadel Securities became the #1 Designated Market Maker (DMM) with the largest footprint on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), responsible for trading approximately 1,500 issuers who represent about \$9 trillion of market cap.^[28] Citadel Securities, handles 40% of the stock trades in the United States, as of March 2021, when the coronavirus pandemic and a Russia-Saudi Arabia oil price war triggered a market sell off.^{[29][30]}

Citadel Technology

Citadel Technology, established in 2009, is the wholly owned and independently operated affiliate of Citadel.^{[31][32]} It offers investment management technology, developed internally at Citadel, to a wide range of firms and funds.^[33] In 2013, Citadel Technology announced a partnership with REDI. The partnership combines Citadel's order management system (OMS) with REDI's execution management capabilities (EMS).^[31]



"Do Right and Feed Everyone,"
United States Secretary of
Agriculture visits the New York Stock
Exchange.

Philanthropic legacy

Harvard Legacy for Financial Aid

In 1999, in his 10th Reunion year, he established a scholarship at the College in honor of his grandfather, Wayne R. Gratz. Griffin serves on the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Financial Aid Task Force, in which he played a key role in establishing new financial aid case statement for the college, leading to new policies that expanded the reach of the financial aid program. In 2015, the Griffin Financial Aid Office was officially established, providing need-based aid to bring poor and minority students to Harvard University, regardless of race, gender, religion, or financial ability.^{[34][35][36][37]}

Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

In 2017, the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics was created to provide financial aid for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Chicago.^{[38][39][40]} In 2019, Mr. Griffin established the Griffin Applied Economics Incubator, as a scientific initiative within the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics' suite of programs. KCGRI's mission is to improve the understanding of one of humanity's most urgent issues is the reduction of global poverty, in all its forms. The incubator is located in the University of Chicago and represents a major hub for generating key initiatives that drive broad-based thought and policy changes.^[41]

The Kenneth C. Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

In October 2019, Griffin's charitable fund announced a \$125 million gift to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the largest gift in the museum's history. The building have the word "museum" appended to its name as the Kenneth C. Griffin Museum of Science and Industry in honor to Mr. Griffin.^{[42][43][44]}

Griffin's charitable fund

Griffin's charitable giving has left a legacy of donations to universities, churches, museums, public schools, law enforcement and other government agencies in the United States. Through the Griffin's charitable fund, Mr. Griffin has been a major benefactor of Harvard University and the University of Chicago. In 2010, Griffin contributed to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's productions at Millennium Park. In 2011, Griffin contributed to build a new chapel at Fourth Presbyterian church of Chicago.^[45] The modern building is called "The Gratz Center" in honor of Griffin's grandparents. In 2019, Griffin donated \$21.5 million to the Field Museum of Natural History and its dinosaur exhibit is named the *Griffin Dinosaur Experience*.^[46]

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Griffin contributed millions to support scientific research to protect people from the disease, in addition to multiple initiatives to provide food, medicine and services for marginalized communities affected by the pandemic.^{[47][48][49]}

Politics

The White House and the U.S Senate

Mr. Griffin serves as national finance chair for the US Senate.^[50] Mr. Griffin has held a series of meetings with the White House and the Federal government of the United States, including the President's Strategic and Policy Forum, providing counsel to revitalize the American economy and create millions of jobs.^[51]

Gun violence

Mr. Griffin substantially escalated the use of technology to tackle crime, gun violence, and the collateral costs the criminal justice system. Via Griffin's charitable fund he has donated millions to reduce violent crime in Chicago. Through collaborations with the crime and education lab not just at the University of Chicago but at leading institutions such as UC Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell, Duke, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, New York University (NYU), Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. The program collects and analyzes gunshot data in high-crime districts with the goal of preventing and responding to shootings. Murders in the city of Chicago went down 17 percent the first year compared with the same period of the previous year. In addition, Griffin funded the launching of two programs aimed at preventing issues that may lead to suicides or excessive force by officers.^{[52][53][54][55][56][57][58]}

Honors and awards

- In 2008, he was inducted into Institutional Investors Alpha's Hedge Fund Manager Hall of fame along with Jim Simons, Alfred Winslow Jones, Bruce Kovner, David Swensen, George Soros, Jack Nash, Julian Roberston, Leon Levy, Louis Bacon, Michael Steinhardt, Paul Tudor Jones, Seth Klarman and Steven A. Cohen.^{[59][60]}
- 2008, Golden Plate Award of the Academy of Achievement presented by Awards Council member Richard M. Daley, the Mayor of Chicago^{[61][62]}

- 2017, Institutional Investor's Lifetime Achievement Award^[63]
- 2017, Navy SEAL Patriot Award^[64]

Controversies

In November 13, 2008, Griffin ran into criticism during the subprime mortgage crisis of 2007 and 2008. He testified before Congress to address his role in the financial crisis.^{[65][66]}

In April 2016, Citadel became the largest shareholder of McDonald's. Mr. Griffin was the target of protestors demanding a \$15 hourly wage.^[67]

In January 2020, Griffin attracted criticism for the controversial facial recognition programs used by Chicago Police. In May 2020, Chicago police confirmed that the department was no longer using facial recognition.^[68]

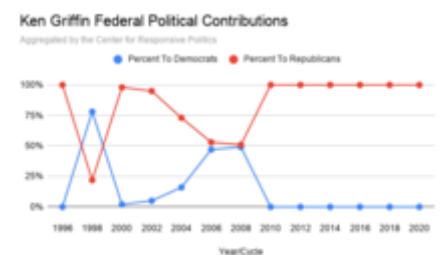
Ken Griffin has faced many controversies involving his real net worth, according to CNBC, Citadel had nearly \$176 Billion in regulatory assets under management reported with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).^[69] Even former president of the United States Donald Trump, during a signing ceremony for the phase-one trade deal with China at the White House, publicly accused Mr. Griffin to try to hide his money.^{[70][71][72]} “The way to think about Citadel is as the Amazon of trading,” says a capital markets technology analyst at Aite Group.^{[73][74]}

In late 2020, Griffin was involved in the biggest tax battles of the year. According to Illinois Board of Elections records, Ken Griffin donated \$58 million of his own money to the Coalition To Stop The Proposed Tax Hike Amendment. The Tax Amendment was defeated in November of the same year.^{[75][76][77]}

In 2021, Griffin testified before the House Financial Services Committee to address Citadel’s role in the GameStop short squeeze controversy, about the information his company was able to garner from the flows of retail clients, and specially, on the idea that he was playing both sides of the short squeeze. Griffin stated "he doesn't have any", during a virtual House Financial Services Committee hearing on February 18.^[78]

Personal life

Griffin has contributed tens of millions of dollars to political candidates and causes. He is a major donor to museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Art Institute of Chicago. He owns an art collection valued at \$800 million and personal residences valued in total at over \$1 billion. His 2015 purchase of two paintings for \$500 million represented the largest private art deal ever. The vast majority of Griffin’s art collection is on display at museums for the public to enjoy. His purchases of residences in London and New York City, for \$122 million and \$238 million, respectively, broke records for the highest prices paid for residences in those cities. Griffin owns two private jets: a 2001 Bombardier Global Express, and 2012 Bombardier Global 6000, manufactured by Bombardier Aerospace for Military missions and Combat missions, including those used by the 89th Airlift Wing which flies the President of the United States.^{[79][80]}



Ken Griffin's federal political contributions since 1996

Mr.Griffin was married twice and has three children with his second ex-wife. Mr. Griffin maintains joint custody of his children.^{[81][82]}

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